
Kingston

Fuels Assessment

Areas within the one mile of home sites:

Kingston is located on the western side of Shoshone County along the I-90 corridor. Homes in this community are scattered near the interstate, and along the river valleys running north and south including French Gulch, Hunt Gulch, and along the Coeur d'Alene River. Slopes near homes are more gentle in this area than most of the county with structures scattered in a more diverse pattern. A small amount of livestock husbandry is practiced in the vicinity of Kingston.



Forest habitats are a range of wet site species near the river to drier site species along the hill slopes and ridge tops. Forest fuel model 8 is common in the forests of this region. Mature forests in this area are characteristically dense, with a moderate amount of dead and dying trees in the tree canopy and a noticeable amount of forest floor duff that could carry a ground fire in droughty years.

Wildfire spread in this region would be carried in the tree canopies and move in the characteristic northwesterly direction after ignition. Residents in this neighborhood have ample escape routes when needed, but there are no signs or planned routes for residents to follow. Home site defensibility in this area ranges from excellent to poor. For the most part, the scattered nature of the home sites dictates that defensibility zones will be built around individual homes, or smaller clusters of homes (2 or 10).

Areas within 3 miles of the community center, but outside the one mile home zone:

Beyond the immediate zone of homes in this area, the ridge tops support a variety of forest types with moderate risk factors for wildfire. The management of these areas are addressed in the county-wide recommendations for landowners and land managers.

Community Risk Assessment

This community along the Coeur d'Alene River had a population of 500 as reported in the 2000 census. Combined with Enaville, Kingston is less than 2 miles from Pinehurst, and is scattered in all directions from the intersection of the Coeur d'Alene River Road and I-90. There are approximately 288 structures within 3 miles of Kingston, excluding those attributed to Pinehurst. The structures



within 0.25 miles of I-90 are not considered at high risk to wildfire, however, those beyond this distance are at increased risk to wildfire loss. There are approximately 151 structures in this high-risk zone.



Rural fire protection is provided to this community by Shoshone County Fire District 2 with a station in Pinehurst. Wildfire protection services are provided by the Idaho Department of Lands in Cataldo.

Because of the extremely rural nature of this community, most of the

nearly 300 structures are next to the rural-urban interface. Homes have generally been built at the junction of trees and farm fields. Livestock feed in many fields reducing the threat from a grass fire, but the threat presented by the forest fire is still a concern for many residents. Individual home site defensibility zone should be constructed around homes and groups of homes at a width of 150-200 feet. Livestock grazing has kept many of the grasses and shrubs in these areas trimmed down, meaning that defensibility zones should concentrate on thinning, pruning, and debris removal.

A few homes in this zone exhibit extremely risky characteristics such as firewood stacked against the wooden deck, cedar shake roof tops, dense forest trees and shrubs against the house, and limited access. These homes are at risk to wildfire while putting other homes at risk to a fire that starts in the home which can rapidly spread to the forest and then other homes. These homeowners are strongly encouraged to reduce home site risk factors.



Many of the homes located along river valley bottoms access their homes through the use of single driveway bridges. While some of these stream overpasses are well

constructed, others are not. As with scattered locale around the region, this area is in need of maximum load calculations on each bridge with the results posted on each structure and kept on file at both the rural fire fighting office and the Idaho Department of Lands office.

